

STUDENTS' LETTER.

SCALE HOW,

AMBLESIDE,

NOVEMBER 19TH, 1907.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

Our chief news this time concerns Mr. Parez's visit on Tuesday, November 5th. He arrived about six o'clock, but we saw nothing of him until a quarter to eight, when the desks in the classroom were pushed back, and all preparations made for a display of steps, clubs, balls, and Swedish drill. Miss Mason, the staff, and non-drillers formed the audience. We started at eight o'clock with the castaquet dance, and after that, while we were hurriedly changing into gymnastic tunics, three Juniors did a skirt dance. Arrayed in blue tunics and white blouses, we next went through clubs, balls, and Swedish drill. By that time we were rather exhausted, but we finished the evening with the Reels.

Next morning brought the inevitable "final crits," which lasted from ten to eleven thirty, when we were drilled by the sergeant. At twelve o'clock Mr. Parez heard us read; we are such a small set that, sitting in alphabetical order, we only took up the front row of desks! We read from "The Princess," and Macaulay's Essays. We concluded the morning with a tonic sol fa lesson by Miss Drury. In the afternoon Mr. Parez came and watched a Swedish drill given in the gymnasium for twenty minutes. We showed him exercises on all the apparatus. The rest of the afternoon was treated as a half-holiday until a quarter to six, when we had half an hour's French lesson with Mlle. Mottu on "Lazare Hoche." On Thursday morning Mr. Parez went down to the Practising School, and later came and listened to various lectures—German, Mathematics, Latin, Drawing, Natural History, and Cooking. On Thursday afternoon Miss Mason held an "At Home," at which the Juniors acted "L'Avare," by Molière. They had been rehearsing it all

the term, and learnt most of their parts during the holidays. The stage was arranged most tastefully, and everything quite as Molière would have wished. Mlle. Mottu would not even allow the actresses to sit down because it was contrary to the rules of the stage in those days to sit down before the King! Everyone seemed to enjoy it, and the acting and costumes were excellent. At the close of the play Mr. Parez thanked the actors, and Mr. Yates proposed a vote of thanks to Mlle. Mottu who had worked so hard in getting it up. After supper we had a musical evening, which consisted of songs, piano, violin, and 'cello solos.

On Friday morning Mr. Parez left.

The next day our half term began. On Monday we had all arranged to go to Ullswater (with the exception of the two students who were to cycle to Cartmel Priory). However, heavy rain in the morning put an effectual stop to our excursion, and it was put off till the next fine day. We had not long to wait, for Tuesday was glorious. About half the students had arranged to walk there, and the other half to walk back, a few drove both ways, and two enterprising spirits walked there and back. On leaving the coach at Glenridding, we wandered towards Aira Force, having lunch on the way seated in a row on a wall, much to the amusement of passers-by. Lunch over, some of us walked on to Aira Force, which was very beautiful. Others went to visit the lead mine, while a few explored the village and its surroundings. Soon after starting homeward, a few drops of rain were felt, and ominous grey mists were rolling over the Pass. But we felt quite lively, and had ample provision in the way of rags and cloaks against all weather. At the top of the Pass it was almost dark and raining in torrents; quite undaunted, however, we proceeded to take the longer route home by Troutbeck. We arrived home very wet and very jolly, having had a most enjoyable day.

Bad weather and other things have prevented many hockey practices this term; but on the whole we seem to be able to raise two fairly presentable teams.

The Oxford Extension Lectures on the "Inspiration of Greece" are exceeding interesting. The lecturer is so thoroughly familiar with his subject and with Greece itself, that he quite inspires his audience, even to reading Homer;

he also draws most wonderful maps and plans on the black-board.

By the way, we should like to remark that the alteration in the Practising School, mentioned in the last Students' Letter, is only *temporary*, and to suit the convenience of the parents of some of the children in Classes Ia and b.

THE SENIORS.

LITERARY CORNER.

- "Lavengro" and "The Romany Rye," G. Borrow.
- "Painters: German, Flemish and Dutch," Buxton & Poynter.
- "Familiar Studies of Men and Books," R. L. Stevenson.
- "From a College Window," G. C. Benson.
- "Pre-Raphaelitism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood,"
by Holman Hunt.
- "The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini." Everyman's
Library, 1s.
- "Dante, the Wayfarer," Christopher Hare.
- "Queen Louisa of Prussia," Mary M. Moffat.
A most delightful book.
- "Eugenié, Empress of France," Jane Stoddart.
- "A Queen of Tears," W. H. Wilkins.
This was Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark, daughter of George
II. The book makes one live the life at the Danish court, and
brings one into touch with the Georges and England at that time.
- "Days with Velosquez," G. L. Hind.
- "Angélique Arnould," Francis Martin.
A most interesting account of the life and work of this wonderful
woman, showing all the difficulties and struggles of that famous
little band of Port Royalists.
- "Seven Angels of the Renaissance," Sir Wyke Bayless.
- "The Conqueror," Gertrude Atherton.
A fascinating account of the life of Alexander Hamilton, the great
American statesman, and friend and advisor of Washington.

"Pepys' Diary, Evelyn's Diary."

Most delightful reading, and full of interest for Class III. work of last term. Pepys was in the ship with Charles when he landed at the Restoration, lived through the great Plague and the great Fire, and describes all in a delightfully intimate, humorous, and vivid way.

"The Queen's Quair," Maurice Hewlitt.

This throws much light on the character of Mary Queen of Scots, and is interesting reading.

NOVELS.

"The House of Defence," E. F. Benson.

"Prisoners," Mary Cholmondeley.

"A Lambe Dog's Diary," and "The Fortunes of Christina McNab," S. McNaughtan.

"The Egoist," "Diana of the Crossways," "Evan Harrington," G. Meredith.

NOTICES.

Miss Mason thinks the students will like to know that Mr. Bell, Market Place, Ambleside, has photographed Dr. Johnson's portrait, and copies can be obtained from him for 1s. 6d. each small size and 5s. each large size.

LOST, STOLEN, OR STRAYED,

The Budget for 1898, E. C. Allen's monitress year. Kindly restore the same to circulation.